

# DO YOU LOVE ME?

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## John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning [before all-time] was the Word (<sup>[a]</sup>Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God <sup>[b]</sup>Himself

And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.

The foundation of our relationship with GOD is a radical, outrageous, consuming desire for His Word. You will never experience true intimacy with GOD without it. The Bible IS His written recorded Word. The Word was and is GOD and at the appointed time He became flesh and lived awhile among humans. We have the Spoken Word. We have the Recorded Word in written form. And now we have the visible Word that was made flesh. It's like in ages past before folks could read and write, they told stories using spoken words. Then, with the invention of the printing press, common folks could read books of stories. And then came movies—silent at first and then with sound. Now we can see stories played out before our eyes.

And so it is with GOD: In ages past He spoke, then His Word was written down to be read and studied, and then Jesus came and lived out what was spoken and written down. He made it plain so we could see and understand who GOD is and how much He loves us. Intimacy with GOD begins with a thorough knowledge and understanding of His Word. This knowledge and understanding only comes by revelation and it is revealed to you by Holy Spirit.

## 2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study *and* be eager *and* do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing *and* accurate

ly dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth. Our focus is the words 'be eager' and 'do your utmost'

This kind of behavior is radical! It is outrageous! It is consuming! This level of

devotion to God's Word is seen all down through the history of Christ's Church in the men and women of great faith. This level of commitment to the Word of God is the distinguishing mark of great faith.

**Acts 6:4**

*4 But we will continue to devote ourselves steadfastly to prayer and the ministry of the Word.*

This is the example set by the Apostles—prayer and study of the Word. It is said that Smith Wigglesworth would read nothing but the Bible. He would pray in the

Spirit and then read Scripture and then pray in the Spirit and read more Scripture. ALL the people of great faith had a radical, outrageous and all-consuming desire for the Word of God

DO YOU WANT GREAT FAITH?

DO YOU WANT TO DO GREAT AND MIGHTY EXPLOITS FOR THE KINGDOM?

THEN YOU MUST HAVE A GREAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD!

JESUS IS ASKING, "DO YOU LOVE ME?"

How much time out of your day do you spend reading, muttering, pondering, praying over the Word? It's not enough to spend your time listening to other folks talk ABOUT God, but you must spend more time WITH GOD. It is PRAYER and the WORD that ushers you into intimacy with GOD.

With this as the foundation of your relationship with God, you are lifted to new levels when you do assemble with other believers for times of corporate praise and worship and the ministry of the Word. You will begin to experience new levels of understanding as the Word is being preached. You will begin to hear the Voice of God clearer. He's always talking to us, but too often we are distracted by other voices talking to us and we don't hear Him.

**Jesus issues this challenge:**

Get radical about the Word!

Develop a consuming desire for the Word of God!

Look for ways to spend more time reading, muttering, pondering, praying over the Word!

I DARE YOU! STEP OUT OF YOUR BOAT CALLED 'COMFORT' AND WALK ON THE WATER WITH ME!

*[All Scripture quoted is taken from The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition]*

